A meeting of Chief Ministers/Minister of States in the Northern Region was scheduled in April, 1999. However, the meeting could not be held due to Tricentenary celebrations in Punjab and subsequent announcement of General Elections. It is now proposed to convene this meeting. Thereafter, further steps will be taken in accordance with the decision taken in the meeting. A preparatory official level meeting has been held in New Delhi on 29-7-2000.

Improvement in wires connecting system

1983. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the distribution wires in the villages and some cities are connected in such a primitive way that pose hazard to linemen, the public and monkeys;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to straighten these lines so that these are both identifiable and are not a hazardous to the public; and

(c) in view of the poor quality of our distribution system what immediate action Government propose to take to improve the connecting systems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) Power distribution falls within the preview of the concerned State Electricity Boards/ Electricity Departments. The activities pertaining to installation, operation and maintenance of the distribution system are taken care of by the power utilities as per the relevant provisions of Indian Electricity Rules, 1956 (amended up to date), Chapter IV, (General Safety Requirements), Rule 29—"Construction, Installation, Protection, Operation and Maintenance of Electric Supply Lines and Apparatus", and Chapter VIII, (Over Head Lines) which laid down the procedure for safe operating conditions of the lines so that there are no hazard to linemen, public and the animals.